

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (new): In a storage system to be coupled to a host computing system including at least one processor unit, a method of conducting input/output (I/O) requests from the host computing system, the method including the steps of:

providing a plurality of logical volumes including a first logical volume and a second logical volume;

mapping each of the first and the second logical volumes to a corresponding one or more of the physical disk units, each of the first and the second logical volumes carrying the same data;

receiving from the host computing system a first read request;

assigning the first read request to the first logical volume;

receiving from the host computing system a second read request; and

assigning the second read request to the second logical volume.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of: identifying a logical volume of the logical volumes as a master logical volume;

writing data to the master logical volume; and

copying the data to the first logical volume and the second logical volume.

Claim 17 (new): A storage system to be coupled to a host computing system including at least one processor unit, comprising:

a controller configured to receive from the host computing system read requests;

a memory associated with the controller; and

a plurality of physical disk units coupled to the controller;

wherein the memory stores data structure information to provide a plurality of logical volumes including a first logical volume and a second logical volume and to map each of the first and the second logical volumes to a corresponding one or more of the physical disk units, each of the first and the second logical volumes carrying the same data,

wherein a first read request from the host computing system is assigned to the first logical volume, and a second read request from the host computing system is assigned to the second logical volume.

Claim 18 (new): The storage system of claim 17, wherein a logical volume of the logical volumes is identified as a master logical volume;

wherein data is written to the master logical volume and the data is copied to the first logical volume and the second logical volume.

Claim 19 (new): A storage system to be coupled to a host computing system including at least one processor unit, comprising:

means for providing a plurality of logical volumes including a first logical volume and a second logical volume;

means for mapping each of the first and the second logical volumes to a corresponding one or more of the physical disk units, each of the first and the second logical volumes carrying the same data;

means for receiving from the host computing system a first read request;

means for assigning the first read request to the first logical volume;

means for receiving from the host computing system a second read request;

and

means for assigning the second read request to the second logical volume.

Claim 20 (new): The storage system of claim 19,

means for identifying a logical volume of the logical volumes as a master logical volume;

means for writing data to the master logical volume; and

means for copying the data to the first logical volume and the second logical volume.